United Nations A/57/350

General Assembly

Distr.: General
26 August 2002

Original: English

Fifty-seventh session
Items 42, 43 and 89 of the provisional agenda*

Follow-up to the outcome of the twenty-sixth special session: implementation of the Declaration of Commitment on HIV/AIDS

Follow-up to the outcome of the special session on children

Environment and sustainable development

Letter dated 22 August 2002 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Japan to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit to you herewith the Koizumi Initiative (Concrete Actions of the Japanese Government to be Taken for Sustainable Development — Towards Global Sharing), which was announced in Tokyo on 21 August 2002 (see annex).

It would be highly appreciated if the present letter and its annex could be circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda items 42, 43 and 89.

(*Signed*) Yoshiyuki **Motomura**
Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary
Deputy Permanent Representative of Japan
to the United Nations

* A/57/150.

02-53688 (E) 280802

Annex to the letter dated 22 August from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Japan to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Koizumi Initiative

Concrete Actions of the Japanese Government to be Taken for Sustainable Development — Towards Global Sharing, 21 August 2002

[Provisional translation]

1. Basic concept
2. Important areas and concrete measures
   - (1) People and hope (human resources development)
     - (a) Investing in people
     - (b) Knowledge
     - (c) Science and technology
   - (2) Ownership and solidarity — development
     - (a) Trade and foreign investment
     - (b) Energy
     - (c) Agriculture and food
     - (d) Development assistance
     - (e) Africa
   - (3) Today's complacency, tomorrow's plight — environment
     - (a) Environment-related assistance for developing countries
     - (b) Climate change
     - (c) Forests
     - (d) Biodiversity
     - (e) Water
     - (f) Environment-related treaties

1. Basic concept

In order to realize sustainable development, simultaneous achievement of development and environmental protection is indispensable.

All governments, organizations and stakeholders should share their understanding, strategies, responsibility, experiences, and information.

Global sharing (equal partnership)

It is important to pursue concrete action to implement the agreements reached in Doha, Monterrey etc. with a view to achieving the millennium development goals.

Japan will implement the following concrete measures in order to assist the self-help efforts of developing countries (ownership), while seeking to expand partnership within the international community.

2. Important areas and concrete measures:

Japan's own initiative (new)

Japan's own initiative (continued)

Initiatives based on partnership (new)

(1) People and hope (human resources development):

In order to realize sustainable development, it is indispensable that the ordinary people of the world are motivated with hope to make full use of their ability under good governance.

To that end, human resources development (in the fields of education, health and gender) is an area of the greatest importance. In other words, investing in people and sharing knowledge and technology are the keys to sustainable development.

(a) Investing in people. "Human resources development is the basis of nation-building":

(i) Education:

Propose "the Decade of Education for Sustainable Development".

Provide assistance totalling more than 250 billion yen (approx. $2 billion) over the next five years for education in low-income countries. Promote "Basic Education for Growth Initiative (BEGIN)" (assistance for girl's education, for teacher training, and for science and mathematics education etc.).

(ii) Health:

Reinforce efforts to combat infectious and parasitic diseases with the target of allocating a total of $3 billion over a five-year period beginning in the 2000 financial year (Okinawa Infectious Diseases Initiative).

(b) Knowledge:

Share Japan's tragic experiences concerning pollution and its recovery therefrom, as well as its successful experience of cooperation with other Asian countries, with Africa and other regions.

Promote the Initiative for Development in East Asia (IDEA) and share East Asia's successful experience of development with other countries and regions.

(c) Science and technology (as a breakthrough for sustainable development)

Promote global environment monitoring through the Integrated Global Observing Strategy (IGOS) Partnership and global mapping.

Implement cooperation in environmental science and technology.

(2) Ownership and solidarity — development. Mobilization of various resources (solidarity) is essential in order for developing countries to promote sustainable development and poverty reduction through self-driven economic growth (ownership):

(a) Trade and foreign investment. Promote trade and private investment to realize sustainable development. (Japan's imports from developing countries amount to about $150 billion per year.):

Expand support for trade-related technical assistance and capacity-building by the Japan International Cooperation Agency and other bodies.

(Hold Japan-WTO joint seminars in Geneva. Expand Japan's initiative, announced at the tenth session of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, to provide 2,500 persons from developing countries with trade-related capacity-building training in the five-year period from the financial year 2000, to cover 4,500 persons for the same period (2,000 persons added), including capacity-building by the Association for Overseas Technical Scholarships.)

Work towards the objective of duty-free and quota-free market access for the products of all of the least developed countries.

(Immediately examine the expansion of coverage under duty-free and quota-free treatment for the products by the revision of tariff-related laws for the next fiscal year which begins on 1 April 2003.)

Make efforts towards establishing multilateral investment rules.

(Establishing multilateral investment rules is crucial for creating an international environment in which investment in developing countries can increase. Japan will take a leading role in establishing such rules.)

Encourage African countries to participate in multilateral trading systems (WTO).

(Welcome the announcement of the intention of African countries to promote the regional integration through the African Union, support such integration by such means as support for capacity-building, and encourage Africa's further participation in multilateral trading systems (WTO).)

(b) Energy. Promote efficient and environmentally friendly use of limited energy resources, which forms the very basis of economic activity:

Host the Eighth International Energy Forum in Osaka towards the end of September to promote dialogue between energy-producing and consuming countries.

Propose and promote the Energy Literacy Initiative.

(c) Agriculture and food. Contribute to improving food security through green technology innovation:

Promote the development and dissemination of the new rice for Africa (NERICA).

Extend approximately $30 million in aid to tackle the food crisis in southern Africa.

(d) Development assistance. Over the past 10 years, Japan, as the largest donor country, has provided approximately $120 billion — one fifth of the total official development assistance (ODA) contributions of all countries members of the Development Assistance Committee (DAC). Japan has extended $4.8 billion — one fourth of the contributions of the Group of Eight to the enhanced Heavily Indebted Poor Countries (HIPC) initiative. Japan continues to play a positive role as a leading donor, while ensuring effective and efficient implementation of ODA. (It is worth noting that East and South-East Asian countries, which were poorer than African countries in the 1960s, have since experienced rapid growth.)

(e) Africa. There will be no stability and prosperity in the world in the twenty-first century, unless the problems of Africa are resolved. Support the New Partnership for Africa's Development as a clear indication of Africa's ownership:

Steadily implement the initiative "Solidarity between Japan and Africa — Concrete Actions" — and endeavour to follow up the African action plan of the Group of Eight.

Further strengthen support for Africa through the third Tokyo International Conference on African Development.

(3) Today's complacency, tomorrow's plight — environment. The twenty-first century will be a time of apocalypse unless the issues of global environmental degradation, which are serious threats to the continued existence of humankind, are tackled now.

(a) Environment-related assistance for developing countries. In addressing environmental issues, further enhance environmental cooperations, mainly through ODA, including capacity-building in the field of environment:

Establish and announce the environmental conservation initiative for sustainable development.

Implement environment-related human resources development for 5,000 persons in the five-year period beginning in the 2002 financial year.

Host the 2005 World Exposition at Aichi, Japan, which has as its theme "Nature's wisdom".

(b) Climate change. For effective action against global warming, it is important to seek a common set of rules for the future by which all countries, including developing countries, will abide:

Take a leading role for the entry into force of the Kyoto Protocol. (Japan became a party to the Kyoto Protocol on 4 June 2002.)

Aid capacity-building in human resources and sharing of information to promote the clean development mechanism.

(c) Forests. Promote sustainable forest management, including by tackling illegal logging, in recognition of the many benefits of forests (e.g. preservation of ecology, prevention of global warming, conservation of water, provision of forest products):

Propose and promote the Asia Forest Partnership.

Cooperate on forest conservation and other activities in the Congo basin area.

(d) Biodiversity. Contribute to the full enjoyment of the gifts of the natural environment by protecting living organisms in danger of extinction as well as conservation in the hot spots in various regions:

Intensify the initiative towards conservation in the hot spots.

Work towards early ratification of the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety to the Convention on Biological Diversity.

(e) Water. Progressively work on the issue of water resources from various viewpoints such as drinking water, public health, agriculture, economic activities, protection of the natural environment and disaster prevention:

Assist in creating a safe and stable water supply and the development of hygienic facilities. (Japan, which has provided a safe and stable supply of drinking water and access to hygienic sewerage for more than 40 million people in the past five years, continues such efforts. Model projects that exploit water resources, including groundwater supplies, and the transfer of technology to neighbouring countries should also be promoted.)

Strengthen cooperation with non-governmental organizations and women. Support capacity-building for appropriate water resource management (this would be done in cooperation with non-governmental organizations, through the establishment of the management systems by local people and the promotion of technical cooperation, taking the role of women into consideration etc.)

Convene the Third World Water Forum and the related International Ministerial Conference in March 2003.

(f) Environment-related treaties:

Take a leading role in ensuring the early entry into force of the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants.

Work towards early ratification of the Rotterdam Convention on Prior Informed Consent Procedure for Certain Hazardous Chemicals and Pesticides in International Trade.